Mysore Subsidy.

On account of extremely disturbed conditions in 1799, according to the Treaty, the Maharaja agreed to pay annually to the British Government a sum of seven lakhs of Star Pagodas which is equivalent to 24½ lakhs of rupees for the defence and security of his territories. It was further stipulated that in the event of hostilities being undertaken for the defence by either of the contracting parties, His Highness ~~will~~ would contribute such a sum as would be considered reasonable and just by the Governor-General in Council.

Later on in 1807, this stipulation was made more specific in the way that His Highness was to maintain at all times, during peace or war, a body of 4000 horse. Out of this 3000 were required to accompany the British troops outside the State territories whenever necessary.

Shortly afterwards ~~the~~ things had settled down and the retention of such a large force was considered absolutely unnecessary, as is evident from the fact that during the period of fifty years when the State was in the charge of the British Government, the strength of the force was reduced to 1000 only. Thus enforcing of this stipulation was held in abeyance.

Nevertheless, in 1867 when it was decided to hand the State back to the present ruling dynasty, it was also decided to raise the

original Subsidy of 24½ lakhs to the present figure of 35 lakhs. This additional sum was considered to be in lieu of the permanent force which should have been retained by the State for the Imperial defence. This decision discharged the State of its obligation to maintain any contingent for service outside its own territory or to render any help in cash. In raising the Subsidy the then Resident Mr. Gordon was not sure whether in future the State finances ~~will~~ would be able to bear the burden.

The realisation of this increased sum was, however, postponed for over fifteen years with an idea to help the State.

While the realisation of this additional 10½ lakhs was in abeyance, the State offered to maintain ~~an~~ a Regiment of Imperial Service Lancers and a transport Corps. This spontaneous offer was accepted, and the State still maintains the force. It was naturally expected that in consideration of this offer the additional sum of 10½ lakhs ~~will~~ would be remitted.

The standard of Mysore administration and its policy of Industrial development is very well known to the Government. The finances of the State, however, have reached a state in which relief is imperatively necessary. At the time of the rendition it was understood that the efficient system of Government introduced during the time of the British Commission would be maintained. This efficiency had not only

been maintained but improved, and any attempt to impede the rate of progress would be most detrimental to the welfare of the State and its people. Many measures have been introduced to ameliorate, and improve thelot of the people, most of which have been successful, and further measures are urgently required. It can be seen from the Budget that the money is required not for any personal need of the Maharaja, who has a Civil List of his own, but entirely for the good of the people of the ~~State~~ people, and to meet the increasing cost of administration.

Therefore relief of some sort is imperative either by the reduction of the Subsidy, or the disabandment of the Imperial Service force. It would indeed be a great pity were the State compelled to do away with the existing Imperial Service Troops, a course which would be disastrous to the "Izzat" of the State. Nor, surely, the Government will for the sake of a few lakhs allow the standard of Mysore administration to be in any way lowered or impaired.

The need for re-examination of the position of Indian States is admitted in the report on the Indian Constitutional Reforms; and now that the War is over a considerable amount of economical and financial adjustment is taking place, the Durbar would represent most earnestly that the question of Subsidy should also be considered in all its aspects. The Subsidy paid by Mysore to the Government is a little over one third of the total tributes

and constributions from all the Native States of India. It is much more than paid by a whole group of States in any one agency or a Province. (For figures please see Durbar's Memorandum on the Subject.)

The facts will show how hard has been the case of this particular State in this respect - a State which ever since it came under the rule of the present dynasty, has remained second to none in its loyalty and attachment to the Paramount Power. Mysore having fulfilled the terms of the Treaty byregularly paying the Subsidy in cash was entirely relieved of all obligation to render any further help to the Government, it nevertheless not only maintains and offered the Imperial Service Troops and bore all the expenses in connection with the great War, but placed all its resources at the disposal of the Government and was the first to present a very substantial sum in cash (50 lakhs) to the Government of India, thereby setting an example to the other States. It thus gave practical proof of the fact that in these days of civilization the recognition of suserainty does not depend solely on the payment of certain subsidies, but the ties of loyalty which attach the states to the Government can be even more sacred and enduring than a treaty obligation.

It is after making sacrifices and giving ample proofs of their loyalty to the British Raj, that the Durbar are approaching the Government, not to seek a reward or to establish

any claim, but to ask for help in ~~the~~ a time of need. It is not a personal need of the Maharaja, but of the people of Mysore in whose well-being the Paramount Power is as much concerned as His Highness. His Highness has every hope that the Government will view this question in a magnanimous spirit, and deal generously with him and his six million people.

His Highness is also anxious that the matter may be decided before the Indianisation and democratisation of the British Government in India proceeds much further.